



Church Membership

When you become a Christian, you automatically become a member of the world-wide family of Christ, His Church. This family has its expression around the world in local churches. Each local church is a community of God's people. Local church membership at GRCBC involves a commitment to belong and contribute to our family of believers – to use your gifts, resources and time to glorify God through the life, activities and giving of our church. Our church also formally commits itself to caring for you and helping you to grow strong as a follower of Christ. You are able to fully participate in the decision making of the church at members' meetings.

What Does Our Church Expect Of Its Members?

People who take the step of membership within our church are asked to make a strong commitment to grow in Christ, care for His people and contribute to His work. We expect members to:

- Grow and develop their daily relationship with God through personal prayer and Bible study.
- Live a life that is a daily testimony to Jesus Christ through word and action.
- Follow Christ's example and command to be baptised.
- Actively support the vision and purpose of our church.
- Attend at least one worship service a week.
- Be involved in a Home Group to be cared for and to minister to others.
- Be involved in serving God through one of the ministries of our Church.
- Be consistent in financially supporting God's work through our church.
- Be active in the decision making of our church by attending our church meetings.

Can I Become a Member if I Haven't Been Baptised?

As a member of the Baptist Churches of NSW & ACT, our constitution requires members to be baptised. We definitely do not encourage people to get baptised just so they can become a member. Baptism and membership are quite distinct. Baptism is an act of obedience to the instruction of Jesus for his followers as found in Matthew 28.19–20. Membership is simply a formal commitment to one another. Baptism by immersion as a believer is more important to us than membership. If you have never been baptised, then we would love to meet with you and talk to you about baptism.

What Can A Member Do?

Church members recognise new members of the church, determine the use of our Church property and finances, appoint pastors and leaders, and affirm directional changes raised by the leadership. Quarterly meetings provide members with the opportunity to be briefed on these matters. All major decisions must be endorsed by members. Members are asked to affirm our Church leaders and pastors on an annual basis.

What Is Our Leadership Structure?

Pastoral Team

The church appoints full-time and part-time workers to serve in various capacities as needed. The team is accountable to the church membership. The Senior Pastor coordinates the team members and has pastoral oversight of the church. Team members are involved in preaching, training, counselling, visiting, planning and evangelism as they seek to lead the church.

Church Leaders – Core Leadership Team and Church Council

The **Core Leadership Team** consists of our 3 full time pastors and 2 to 4 Church representatives who are members of our church. All members of the team must fulfil the scriptural requirements for elders (1 Peter 5.1–4, Titus 1.5–9) and demonstrate Godly leadership gifting. The Core Leadership Team usually meet monthly to discuss the overall direction of the church and the health of the church.

The **Church Council** consists of the Core Leadership Team and ministry leaders representing the key ministry areas of the church – Children, Youth, Adult Ministry groups, Home Groups, Pastoral Care, Worship, Discipleship and Training, Mission, Prayer, Administration, Property and Finance. Church Ministry Leaders need to fulfil the scriptural requirements for deacons and leaders (Acts 6.1–7, 1 Tim 3.8–13). The Church Council meets quarterly to discuss issues arising out of the Core Leadership Team meetings, to communicate what is happening at Church and ministry level, to encourage one another, and to pray.

Why Do We Affirm Leaders?

Elections are used to fill positions regardless of the suitability of a candidate. When we affirm leaders, we are recognising their spiritual gifting to lead in a particular area of ministry. If no one is suitable then we will not fill the role. Also, because many church members only attend one of our three services, they often do not know people whose names are being raised as possible leaders. More often it is those in leadership who recognise potential leaders with the necessary spiritual qualities and gifting to perform leadership roles because they are working with them. By enabling the Church Council to bring a recommendation to the Church, members can feel more at ease in endorsing or affirming the recommendation for church leaders.

What are Our Essential Doctrinal Beliefs?

- The Bible, consisting of the Old and New Testaments, is the Word of God given by Divine Inspiration and has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. (*2 Tim 3.15–17, 1 Pet 1.23,25, Titus 1.2*)
- There exists one God in three persons, The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit, who reveals Himself to humankind. (*Matt 28.19, John 1.14; 4.24; 15.26; 17.3, 2 Cor 13.14*)
- All of us are sinners in need of salvation and incapable of earning or deserving salvation. (*Rom 3.23; 5.12; 6.23*)
- Jesus Christ is the Son of God (*John 20.28, Col 2.9*), who took on human form (*Matt 1.15, John 1.14*), lived a sinless life, died for our sin (*2 Cor 5.19,21, 1 Pet 3.18*), rose from the dead and ascended into heaven where He is seated at the right hand side of the Father interceding for His people (*Acts 2.23,33, Heb 7.25*) and who will personally return to receive His people to Himself (*John 14.3, 1 Thess 4.16,17*).
- Jesus Christ by His death upon the cross fully paid the price for all people's sin through the shedding of His blood. (*John 3.15, Eph 3.8*)

- Justification is by faith in Christ alone, imparting His righteousness to the believer and providing salvation.
- The Holy Spirit of God convicts people of sin, makes them a new creation in the body of Christ, the family of God, and sets the believer apart for God's holy purpose. (*John 3.5, Gal 5.25, Eph 1.15, 2 Thess 2.13*)
- At the appointed time, known only to God, there will be a bodily resurrection of the dead, both of the saved unto eternal life and the unsaved to eternal condemnation. (*Matt 25.46, Rom 8.11, 1 Cor 15.44*)
- Christian baptism is by immersion for believers only as a public profession of faith and a sign of new life in Christ. (*Acts 2.38,41, Rom 6.4,5*)

At Georges River Community Baptist Church, our mission is ***Demonstrating God's unconditional love for all people, empowering them to flourish in every area of life.*** We want to help each believer be passionate for God, care for others, grow to their full potential and powerfully impact our world. We pray that you will share this vision with us and become an even greater part of the overall ministry and fellowship of our church.



GEORGES
RIVER
COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

Application For Church Membership

Name:

Address:

Phone: (H)

Please answer the following questions.

1. Briefly explain how and when you became a Christian and how Christ has changed your life.

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2. When were you baptised?

Was this baptism by full immersion? (Yes / No)

3. Are you currently a member of another church, and if so, which one?

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4. Which of the following was most instrumental in your decision to apply for membership?

- Personal invitation
- Feel at home in the church
- Have always been a Baptist
- The worship services and teaching of the church
- Other:

5. Why do you wish to become a member of our church?

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6. Our vision is "To grow a vibrant, life changing family church from the surrounding Georges River community by caring, meeting the needs of others and sharing the Good News about Jesus Christ". Are you happy to be a part of God's vision for us in our local Georges River community? (YES / NO)

7. Do you agree with our Church's "Essential Doctrinal Beliefs"? (YES / NO)
If NO, which aspects do you disagree?

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8. Are you currently attending a Home Fellowship Group, and if so, which one? . . .

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9. Are you currently involved in an area of church ministry, and if so, which one?
If not, is there an area of ministry to which you feel drawn?

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10. Will you, as far as possible, be available to attend quarterly members' meetings? (YES / NO)

11. In respect to your work and ministry at Georges River Community Baptist church, do you undertake to observe confidentiality and copyright law at all times? (YES / NO)

Signature : Date :

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE EXECUTIVE PASTOR

OFFICE USE ONLY

Visited by : Date :

Date Received Into Membership :

Church Records Updated (YES / NO)